

RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
UPON THE
SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1971



RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AS AT

31.12.71

Chairman Mr. J. Pickard

W.I. Akst	R. Bojdys
A.S. Cross	H.W. Haddon
Mrs. E.M. Hertzog	J.R. Major
E.H.C. Jones	K.J. Richardson
Miss C.M. Riddy	E.F. Slote
A. Smith	

STAFF:

P.V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B, D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

R.C. GREEN, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspector.

To The Ramsey Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1971.

The mid-year population of the District was again estimated by the Registrar General as unchanged at 5,620.


There were 74 live births during the year, being 10 less than in the previous year. This gave a crude birth rate of 13.2 per 1,000 and an adjusted rate of 13.1 per 1000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales was 16.0 per 1,000. The illegitimate live birth rate was 8% being the same as that for England and Wales. No infants under twelve months of age died during the year, neither were there any stillbirths.

There were 47 deaths during the year 27 males and 20 females, the crude death rate was 8.4 per 1,000 persons and the adjusted rate 9.2. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

The number of cases of notifiable infectious disease has fallen greatly over the last few years. This is due to improvement in living conditions and also to the immunisation facilities which are now widely available. Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis are now virtually a thing of the past in this Country, and Measles is now only a shadow of what it once was. We must beware however, these diseases could come back again at any time when the proportion of immunised persons in the population was insufficient. I do urge parents therefore to see to it that their children receive all the immunisations which are available to them.

The sewerage of the areas lying outside the town is now virtually completed. The number of pail closets in use being reduced from 170 to 75 during the year. Some of those now in use can still be replaced by W.C.'s connected to the sewer. The Council Houses on Herne Road, Ramsey St. Mary's which were outside the sewerable area are now supplied with septic tanks.

I am most grateful to the members of the Council and their Officers and Staff for all the help which they have given to me during the year.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	15,980 acres
Estimated Population	5,620
Density of Persons per acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.34
Number of inhabited Houses as at 1.4.71	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,968
Rateable Value, March 31st, 1971	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£191,196
Value of Penny Rate 70/71	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,844

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Infant deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infant Mortality Rates								
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)								
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of deaths (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.4
Death from Cancer (total)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cancer of lung or bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(m) 2
Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no new cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1971.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during 1971.

Table showing Infant Deaths and the Mortality Rate
Over Six Years

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Actual Number of Deaths	Nil	Nil	1	2	1	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Nil	Nil	14	28	12	Nil

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

Per 1,000 Population					Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Ramsey U.D.	13.2	13.1	8.4	9.2	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	16	16	11.6	11.6	18	12

Comparability Factor Births 0.99

Comparability Factor Deaths 1.09

The comparability factors are figures by which the crude birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country. The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning amongst other things the age and sex structure of the population.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes. Registrar General's figures

<u>Causes of Death</u>						<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, Oesophagus	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, Intestine	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	4	12
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Other diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
All other external causes	...	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
						<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>47</u>

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1971.

DISEASE	TOTAL	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and upwards	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
SMALLPOX	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SCARLET FEVER	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DIPHTHERIA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MEASLES	9	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WHOOPING COUGH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JAUNDICE	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DYSENTERY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
POLIOMYELITIS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
FOOD POISONING	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PARA-TYPHOID	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ACUTE MENINGITIS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Philip V. Cant.

Medical Officer of Health.

Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough, PE2 8RB

Phone: Peterborough 68010

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1971

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1971.

Housing:

It has not been necessary to serve any notices for repairs under the Housing Acts, such work has been included in matters covered by other aspects of the work e.g. improvement and standard grants or has been carried out voluntarily.

Inspection of Houses during the year:

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	314
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	15
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	45
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation:-				
Council properties	...	...	...	409
Others	...	...	...	37

Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders								5
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of written undertakings given by owners not to relet cottages for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...			2
Number of houses closed by agreement pending demolition	...	...						7

7.

Number of houses closed by agreement pending rehabilitation	...	2
Number of houses demolished by voluntary agreement	... ..	6
Dwellings demolished as a result of dangerous building notice	...	1

Improvement Grants :

14 applications for Standard Grants were received during the year.

8 applications for Improvement Grants (Discretionary) were received during the year.

14 Standard Grants were paid during the year.

9 Discretionary Grants were paid during the year.

There now remain twelve Council houses which do not have amenities up to the Standard Grant level. Eight will be dealt with early next year and the remaining four will be improved when difficulties caused by occupation have been solved.

A 1919 Council house was converted into 2 one bedroom flats and provides accommodation to the requisite standard for elderly people. It has proved to be a worthwhile conversion and the tenants are happy. It is proposed to convert others as they become empty but the rising costs and difficulty in finding builders to do the work tends to make the jobs very drawn out.

With regard to grants generally, the Council operates fully the provisions as to improvement grants (discretionary) and provided there are no difficulties as to proof of title most applications for these are dealt with in six weeks and many standard grants in even shorter time.

In spite of encouragement given by Council Officers - and Councillors - the number of grant applications remains comparatively low.

8 applications for certificates of disrepair in connection with qualification certificates were received during the year.

Analyses of complaints received :

Drain nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Plumbing and hot water defects			...	...	...	...	...	107
Electrical defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Roof drainage defects		...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Structural roof defects		...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Defects of W.C.'s and cisterns			...	...	...	...	...	89
Disrepair of doors and windows			...	...	...	...	...	147
Disrepair of grates and fireplaces			...	...	...	...	...	66
Chimney defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Floor defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous - paths, gates etc.			...	...	...	...	...	55
Accumulations, deposits etc.			...	...	...	...	...	14

Council Properties :

In all 827 complaints were received from the tenants of 409 of the Council's houses. During the year improvements were commenced at 72 of these houses and some 456 inspections were made of work in progress. It is anticipated that a further 2 substandard houses will shortly become vacant and can be demolished.

A 1919 Council house has been converted into 2 flats for elderly people and they have proved to be very acceptable and comfortable accommodation for two aged villagers who are happier than they might have been if they had been moved elsewhere. It is proposed to convert other houses of this type to flats both for young couples and elderly people.

Inspections and Visits:

Housing Waiting List	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	314
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Food Hygiene Regulations		...	...	...	...	...	24
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...		...	...	...	...	120
Factory Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Water Supply and Sampling		...	...	...	...	...	14
Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Infestations - Rodents	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Infestations - Insect pests		...	...	...	...	...	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act				...	...	...	60
Council Houses (Inspections, welfare and repairs)					...	...	827
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
						Total	1762

Closets :

Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s	...	...	1996
Number of houses at the end of the year with pail closets	...		75
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses	...	...	40
Number of W.C.'s constructed for old houses	...	...	95

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

112 new drainage systems were installed and tested during the year.
23 alterations to existing systems were also tested.

The Council give a free septic tank emptying service where necessary.
132 septic tanks being emptied in 1971.

At the end of the year there were 75 pail closets emptied twice weekly by a Contractor. A further 7 remote cottages have pail closets emptied by the occupiers.

Sewerage of the outside areas :

With the completion of the system the following areas are now sewered:-

- (a) Ramsey Town.
- (b) Ramsey Heights (the major part)
- (c) Ramsey St. Mary's (the major part)
- (d) Forty Foot Bridge (the major part)
- (e) St. Mary's Road.

At Ramsey St. Mary's the greater number of properties outside the sewerable area are Council houses and in these cases (20 in all) new septic tank systems have been installed.

The standard of effluent has, on occasions, been slightly below the standard required by the Great Ouse River Authority. These few departures from the acceptable standard were thought to be due to the full loading of the filters by the completion of connections in the villages. The reports of the Authority are closely considered in conjunction with the advice available from the Council's Consultant Engineers.

The following list shows the results of analyses carried out by the River Board during 1971:-

Sample No.	4676	Solids in suspension	- 10 ppm.	BOD 5 days	13 ppm.
"	No. 719	"	"	- 17 ppm.	BOD 5 days 20 ppm.
"	No. 1914	"	"	- 36 ppm.	BOD 5 days 20 ppm.
"	No. 3331	"	"	- 22 ppm.	BOD 5 days 25 ppm.
"	No. 4534	"	"	- 20 ppm.	BOD 5 days 20 ppm.

The reception and treatment of sewage from Bury in accordance with the agreement with St. Ives R.D.C. is continuing without any administrative or technical difficulties.

Water Supply :

11 samples of domestic water were taken and were all satisfactory.

The Cambridge Water Company has sent me copies of analysts reports and these show that the water in the water tower is very satisfactory. The supply is adequate in quantity and pressures are good following mains extensions and renewals.

The water supply throughout the District is satisfactory, but contains less than 0.2 parts per million of fluoride. This district is agreeable to fluoridation of its water supply, but we are awaiting negotiations between the Cambridge Water Company and other bodies before more can be done in the matter. There are no standpipes in the area, and there are only about three houses in the District which do not receive mains water. The Council continues to have representatives on the Cambridge Water Company.

Swimming baths :

Three samples of water from a school swimming pool were taken. The first produced an unsatisfactory plate count. This was found to be due to under-chlorination following the mis-interpretation of testing equipment. This was rectified and further samples proved to be satisfactory.

Meat and Food Inspection :

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Unfit food is condemned following notification by the shopkeeper, or during routine inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Among foodstuffs condemned were:-

4,752 apples.
1,095 kilogrammes Onions.
1,000 kilogrammes Miscellaneous foodstuffs.

Food Premises :

The number of food premises in the area is as follows:-

Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	8
Butchers Shops	...	...	3
Multiple stores selling prepacked meat	...	...	2
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	20
Greengrocers	...	...	4
Bakers	...	...	1
Confectioners	...	...	1
Fish Shops (Fried and Wet)	...	...	2
School Kitchens	...	...	4
Number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act	...	20	
Number of inspections of registered food premises	...	18	

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the district.

Condemned foodstuffs are burned at the Refuse Tip.

There are no poultry processing plants in the area.

Common Lodging Houses :

There are none in this District.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 :

A total of 74 registered premises were on record on 31st December, 1971. One or more visits of inspection were made to 36 premises. Close liaison is maintained with the Fire Prevention Department of the County Fire Service and joint inspections are often made. The occasion occurs in a small authority such as Ramsey for shopkeepers and other people whose livelihood is controlled by this Act for them to seek advice informally at the office and their attention is directed to their responsibilities when plans for alterations of premises are under preliminary discussion. Some 60 visits in all were made to premises under this Act.

Factories Act 1961 :

Premises	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	-	-	-	-
Factories with power	18	14	-	-
Other Premises	9	18	-	-
Cases in which defects were found		4	-	-
Outworkers	There are no outworkers in the District.			

Refuse Collection and Disposal :

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, two loader/drivers and a loader provide a weekly back door collection in the town and a weekly kerbside collection in the villages. The 35 cubic yard Bedford/Eagle refuse vehicle enables the crew to cope with the rounds and to accommodate the new dwellinghouses that are being occupied.

Refuse disposal is at the Ramsey Heights Tip and no complaints were received during the year from householders in the vicinity. Negotiations are in hand to lease part of the land adjoining the Tip as a Nature Reserve under the control of the Bedford and Huntingdonshire Naturalists Trust.

Rodent Control :

Rentokil have continued to do treatments to dwellinghouses on complaint and Council properties by regular servicing.

There has been no evidence of infestation in the sewers.

Rentokil have several farm contracts in the district and another contracting firm treats Ramsey Estates. Where infestations have been reported or noticed, informal action was all that was needed to have the necessary treatments carried out. No evidence of warfarin resistance in rats or mice was noticed.

The following table shows the inspections and treatments carried out:-

		<u>Type of Property</u>	
		<u>Non-</u> <u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1.	Number of properties in district	2062	292
2. (a)	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	95	-
(b)	Number infested by (i) Rats	30	-
	(ii) Mice	10	-
3. (a)	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	55	6
(b)	Number infested by (i) Rats	30	-
	(ii) Mice	1	-

Caravan Sites :

The one residential site, which for some years had been troublesome, had, with the voluntary co-operation of the owner, closed down. One other individual caravan used for residential purposes was removed with the co-operation of the owner as it tended to develop into a sub-standard "transit dwelling" for young marrieds who were keen to get a Council house.

Appreciation is expressed of the interest and support of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee, Members of the Council, the guidance of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

R. C. GREEN. M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

